Statement

There was a general consensus that universal elementary education to be preceded by, as an essential step, universal primary education would have to be taken up on a mission mode. Universal access, universal retention together with qualitative inputs would be the key components here. Implementation would be done with full collaboration between the Central and State Governments with community involvement. A National Committee to be chaired by the Minister (HRD) and consisting of ministers of the States of Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal would develop the structure and outlines of this mission.

It was resolved that the financing of education was not commensurate with the needs of this sector and that more funds would need to be provided both from public and private sources. The funding of education would have to be done both by the Central and State Governements as a collaborative national effort. This would need to cover all sectors of education elementary, secondary and higher.

It was agreed that in keeping with the requirements of science and technology and the information era, information technology would have to come in a comprehensive way in the eudeational system, both in terms of training manpower and supply of appropriate hardware and software. This would be part of the IT Task Force Agenda for Education.

It was unanimously resolved that the educational system should be more responsive to social needs. Quality improvement in higher education is another area which would need urgent attention of both the Central Governmnet and the State Governments. Simultaneously, there was need for a greater thrust on vocational education and vocationalisation.

Given the greater outreach of the open schooling and distance education system, its long-term cost effectiveness, it was resolved that these would be further strengthened in tandem with the formal schooling set up. The role of open schooling and distance eudcation in reaching those socially disadvantaged was stressed upon.

The importance of providing free eduction for girls upto the graduation level as already included in the National Agenda for governance was welcomed. It was stated in this connection that some funds for this activity had already been provided for in the Central Budget. The scope and extent of what constituted "Free Education" would need to be however further discussed and deliberated upon. This would be further deliberated by the State Education Secretaries with the Union Education Secretary, in concurrence with the respective State Governments.

It was resolved that the thrust of the educational policy should be directed towards those who are marginalised in general and in particular to those who belonged to SC/ST and minorities.

It was recognised that there was a need to build up environment-awareness through auricular and co-curricular activities at all levels of education.

It was also noted that literacy levels in the country would need to be stepped up significantly in order to create the base for all educational efforts. The National Literacy Mission and the State Literacy Missions would need to work with vigour and zeal to achieve this objective.

Irregular Functioning of Universities

714. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA-SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission (UGC) the apex authority for the country's 230 odd universities has no real control over them;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many of the universities are not following their academic calendar and some of them have not been able to conduct examinations for 1997-98; and

(c) if so, the details and reasons therefor and what action is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Universities are autonomous in character. UGC has been assigned the responsibility of co-ordination and determination of standards in universities. In discharge of its responsibility, UGC has framed various Regulations and guidelines which all the Universities are expected to follow.

(b) and (c) In order to ensure that all the academic activities of the University, including conduct of examinations, declaration of results, start of new academic session, etc. take place in time, the UGC has formulated and circulated to all universities an Academic Calendar. The UGC had also set up a Committee to examine the issues relating to implementation of the Academic Calendar in the universities. The Committee, in its report, had suggested award to the universities to encourage implementation of the Academic Calendar. The recommendations were considered by the Commission and circulated to all the universities and State Governments emphasising the need to implement the Academic Calendar as also the main recommendations of the Committee.

भूतपूर्व अंतराष्ट्रीय खिलाडियों को प्रदान की गई वित्तिय सहायता

715. **श्रीमती सरोज दुबे**: क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भूतपूर्व अंतराष्ट्रीय खिलाडियों को सरकार द्वारा वित्तिय सहायता प्रदान की जाती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले दो वर्षो के दौरान राज्य- वार और खिलाडी-वार कितनी-कितनी धनराशि वितरित की गई है;

(ग) क्या वितरित धनराशि प्रचुर मात्रा में नहीं है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार भूतपूर्व अंतराष्ट्रीय खिलाडियों के जीवन यापन के लिए कोई उपचारत्मक कदम उठा रही है; और

(ड) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी): (क) और (ख) जी, हां, सरकार निम्नलिखित योजनाओं के अंतर्गत भूतपूर्व उत्कृष्ट खिलाडियों वित्तिय सहायता प्रदान करती रही है ।

(1) **प्रतिभाशास्त्री खिलाडियों को पेंशन देने के लिए खेल कोष**

इस योजना के अंतर्गत निम्नलिखित दर पर मासिक पेंशन प्रदान की जाती है:-

(क) ओलंपिक खेलों में पदक विजेता 2500/- रूपये प्रतिमास

(ख) ओलंपिक तथा एशियाई खेल विधाओं में विश्व कप/विश्व चैंपियनशिप में स्वर्ण पदक विजेताओं को 2500/- रूपये

(ग) ओलंपिक तथा एशियाई खेल विधाओं में विश्व कप/विश्व चैंपियनशिप में रजत तथा कांस्य पदक विजेताओं को 2000/- रूपये

(घ) एशियाई खेलों में स्वर्ण पदक विजेताओं को 2000/- रूपये प्रतिमास

(ड) राष्ट्रमंडल खेलों के स्वर्ण पदक विजेताओं को 2000/- रूपये प्रतिमाह पात्र खिलाडियों को पेंशन जीवन बीमा निगम के माध्यम से प्रदान की जा रही है । योजना के अंतर्गत राज्य-वार लाभार्थियों की सूची विवतर्ण पर संलग्न (नीचे देखिए)

(2) **खिलाडियों के लिए राष्ट्रीय कल्यान कोष**

इस योजना के अंतर्गत, उन उत्कृष्ट खिलाडियों को जो दरिर्द अवस्था में जीवन यापन कर रहे है अथवा जिनकी मासिक आय 3000/- रूपये से कम है, उन्हें प्रतिमास 2500/- रूपये तक की पेंशन दी जाती है । जरूरतमंद खिलाडियों को चिकित्सा उपचार के लिए 40,000/- रूपये तक की एकमुश्त सहायता भी दी जाती है ।

(ग) से (ड) ये योजनाएं हाल ही में संशोधित की गई है और पेंशन की दरे बढ़ा दी गई है । प्रतिभाशाली खिलाडियों को पेंशन देने के लिए खेल कोष की योजना के अंतर्गत, राष्ट्रमंडल और एशियाई खेलों में स्वर्ण पदक विजेताओं तथा ओलंपिक एवं एशियाई खेल विधाओं में विश्व कप/विश्व चैंपियनशिपों में रजत और कांस्य पदक विजेताओं के लिए पेंशन की राशि 1500/- रूपये से बढाकर 2000/- रूपये तथा ओलंपिक खेलों में पदक विजेताओं और विश्व कप एवं विश्व चैंपियनशिप में स्वर्ण पदक विजेताओं के लिए पेंशन की राशि 2000/- रूपये से बढ़ाकर 2500/- रूपये प्रतिमास कर दी गई है । इसी प्रकार, खिलाडियों के लिए राष्ट्रीय कल्याण कोष कि योजना के अंतरगत, पेंशन की राशि 2000/- रूपये से बढ़ाकर 2500/- रूपये कर दी गई है ।